

MONTHLY REPORT OF RIVER AND FLOOD CONDITIONS

REPORT FOR:

MONTH

YEAR

May

2002

SIGNATURE

Michael Decker

In Charge of HSA

DATE

June 12, 2002

TO: Hydrometeorological Information Center, W/OH2
 NOAA / National Weather Service
 1325 East West Highway, Room 7230
 Silver Spring, MD 20910-3283

When no flooding occurs, include miscellaneous river conditions, such as significant rises, record low stages, ice conditions, snow cover, droughts, and hydrologic products issued (WSOM E-41).

☒ No flood stages were reached in this HSA for the month above.

May rainfall was erratic. Some areas in the Big Country saw good rains, often accompanied by large hail, high winds, and tornados. Eastern sections, including McCulloch, Brown and Coleman counties, also had above normal rain. Many areas, however, saw rainfall well below normal levels. Heavy rainfall events were confined mainly to early and late portions of the month, similar to the May of 2001. Numerous Thunderstorms on the 3th produced heavy rainfall from 2 to 4 inches across the northern Concho Valley, Southern Big Country and east to Coleman and Brown Counties. Violent thunderstorms on the 4th developed near San Angelo and moved east across Concho and McCulloch Counties...prompting flash flood warnings due to their intense rainfall. Additional thunderstorms developed in the western Big Country in Fisher and Nolan counties on the evening of the 4th. These moved east across Taylor and Callahan Counties during the early morning of the 5th. Flooding occurred along Bluff Creek in Runnels county on the afternoon and evening of the 5th. Heavy rains in southern Taylor County early on the morning of 5th apparently allowed the break of a dam or stock pond, which flooded Bluff Creek east of Winters, making several roads impassible. A flood warning was issued for Elm Creek at Ballinger at 620 PM, due to concurrent reports of flooding with Bluff Creek. Flooding at Elm Creek turned out to be unsubstantiated. However, since Bluff Creek flows into Elm Creek, there was a rise of 2 feet, to a stage of 4.9 feet (1900 cfs) 6 hours later at Elm Creek. Elm Creek at Ballinger remained below its flood stage of 7 feet. On the 7th, a band of heavy rainfall, from 2 to 2 ½ inches, fell from Sterling City to Abilene. Heavy rains along the Colorado River on the 25th and 27th allowed some rises along the Colorado River. Several flash flood warnings were issued for Coke, Runnels, McCulloch, and Sterling Counties.

For the month of May, Abilene ended up with 3.42 inches of rain, 0.41 inches above normal. The total so far this year is 9.34, or 1.33 inches above normal. It was the 8th driest May in San Angelo with 0.45 inches, or 2.64 inches below normal. San Angelo has received 3.51 of rain so far this year, 4.16 inches below normal.

Forage is poor and soil conditions dry in many places in the Concho Valley, Northern Edwards Plateau, and Northwest Hill Country. Areas south of a Sterling City...San Angelo...Junction line have seen only 3 to 4 inches since December 1, 2001. The Funk Ranch in northern Irion County reported that there has not been any grass for 3 years. In Kimble county, a rainfall observer in London remarked that if they did not get any rain soon, "half of their cattle would go see McDonalds." Some of the Coop reports for May include: Ozona, 0.02 inches; Sonora, 0.29 inches, Sterling City 0.47 inches; Water Valley, 0.48 inches, Junction, 0.49 inches. May is normally the 1st or 2nd wettest month of the month, and is a critical month for ranching and cotton.

Reservoir levels remain very low in the Concho Valley and western sections of the Big Country, where a hydrologic drought has existed since 1997. If no inflows occur in O.C. Fisher, most of the reservoir could dry up due to evaporation this Summer. O.C. Fisher has gone dry before. In the early 1970s, the "Laugh-In" television show awarded San Angelo the Flying Fickle Finger of Fate Award after the dry bed of O.C. Fisher caught on fire. Oak Creek Reservoir in northeast Coke county also remains at extremely low levels. A channel has been dredged to deeper portions of the lake, so that water can still flow to the intake pipes of a power plant located there. Oak Creek reservoir was the water supply for Sweetwater, until earlier this year. Sweetwater has since switched to well water. In the HSA, only Lake Brownwood and Lake Stamford

reservoirs are doing OK.

Reservoir	May 1st Storage - Acre Ft	% Capacity	April 1st Storage - Acre Ft
O.C. Fisher	3240	3	3920
Twin Buttes	6600	4	8730
Spence	55760	11	52540
O.H. Ivie	234700	42	240700
Ft Phantom Hill	30140	43	30390
Lake Stamford	37200	71	37470
Brownwood	113000	79	106800

Rainfall totals for May:

Abilene ASOS	3.24	Funk Ranch	0.30	Silver Valley	4.23
Abilene #2	3.25	Glen Cove	1.62	Sonora	0.29
Albany	4.40	Hamlin	2.92	Sonora 17NE	0.82
Albany (DOT)	4.48	Haskell	2.30	Stamford	1.64
Acton Ranch	0.43	S. Llano Pk	1.38	Sterling City	0.47
Anson	1.75	Lk. Abilene	6.10	Sterling City 11NE	2.72
Ballinger	2.00	Lawn	6.19	Taylor Ranch	3.02
Brady	2.64	Mason	1.00	Telegraph	0.40
Brownwood	2.13	Menard	0.44	Throckmorton	0.72
Burkett	4.11	O.C. Fisher	1.27	Trent	3.71
Coleman	3.34	Ozona	0.02	Water Valley	0.48
Concho Park	2.72	Putnam	3.63	Water Valley 11NE	4.78
El Dorado	0.91	Rosco	4.87	Winters	4.95
Ft Griffin	4.05	Rotan	1.45	Woodson	3.95
Ft McKavett	0.29	San Saba 7NW	2.19		

River Products Issued:

RVASJT (Daily River Summary):	31
RVDSJT (Daily River and Lake Summary):	31
FLWSJT (River Flood Warning)	1
FLWSJT (Areal Flood Warning)	1
FLSSJT (Flood Statement)	5
2 Urban and Small Stream Advisories	
2 Flood Statements for River	
1 Flood Statement Watch Cancellation	
RVSSJT (Hydrologic Statement)	1